Import of Foodgrains

1721. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import foodgrains during the current year;

(b) if so, the details, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government is keeping open the option to import wheat and rice as and when considered necessary. It is also proposed that maize be imported on gift and commercial basis by the nominated agencies. Pulses are allowed for imports freely by all, subject to registration of contracts with the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED). NAFED and STC would also import pulses; NAFED has already imported approximately 29,995 MTs while STC has imported (till 23-2-88) 12,500 MTs.

Transport of Fodder in Rajasthan

1722. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of fodder for cattle in the drought-stricken parts of Rajasthan;

(b) whether a gift of fodder received from farmers of Meerut district for the benefit of the droght-stricken areas in Rajasthan has remained unutilised due to lack of transport facilities; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government for transportation of the fodder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) There is shortage of fodder in the drought-affected areas of Rajasthan.

(b) No such gift was received by the State Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Strike decision by the Joint Trade Union Action Committee in Coal Industry

1723. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:
SHRI NARAYAN KAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the joint trade union action committee in coal industry has decided for a six day strike from 15th March, 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The joint convention of coal unions (AITUC, CITU, BMS & HMS) held at Calcutta on 20-1-88 decided to call a strike in all the coal-mines from 15-3-88 to 22-3-88. The demands include implementation of non-implemented clauses of the National Coal Wage Agreement-III, implementation of the pension scheme for all coal-miners w.e.f. 1-4-1987 as per decision of the Joint Bi-partite Committee for Coal Industry, early settlement of charter of demands, and abolition of contract system in all coal-mines and regularisation of all contract workers, etc.

Provision of Houses to Workers from out of their contribution to Provident Fund

1724. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH. Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided that the State Housing Boards would provide houses to workers and the cost thereof would be paid from out of workers' contribution to provident fund;

(b) whether a phase-wise programme has been chalked out, State-wise; if so; the estimated number of dwelling units to be given to workers by the end of the current plan period;

(c) what progress has been made so far in the implementation of the scheme; and

(d) what is the type of unit to be given to workers and under which scheme and what would be its total cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) It has been suggested to the various State Housing Boards to consider providing houses to the provident fund subscribers, subject to some initial down payment towards the cost of houses being made from their provident fund account,

(b) No formal programme has been halked out so far;

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha; and

(d) The type and cost of houses will vary from place to place. It is not therefore, possible to give a firm indication about the type and cost.

Suggestion of the FICCI for Review of Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976

1725. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has recently suggested a thorough review of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976, to accelerate construction activity in cities and towns; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH). (a) and (b) A Seminar on 'New Opportunities for House Construction Activity' was organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi on 29-6-87. Various legislations affecting the housing sector including the Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, 1976 was discussed and suggestions were made for removing the hurdles in the implementation of the Act. Proposals for amendment to the Act are already under consideration of the Government and the suggestions made in the Seminar would be kept in view at the time of finalising the amendments.

National Policy on Animal Slaughter

1726. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Central Leather Research Institute for the formulation of a national policy on animal slaughter to prevent indiscriminate slaughter of young and productive animals and ensure healthy development of the meat industry; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir. However, one of the recommendations of the All India Survey on